

NEWSBRIEF



Date: August 1, 2014

To: Council & Senior Staff

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6. Sun Post articles:
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 - Column: Sounding off on Bowman, et. Al
 - Crystal Police report for the week of July 31
 - Frolicking across Crystal
 - In support of ‘feel good’ projects
 - LETTER: On mill and overlay
 - LETTER: Rebutting Bowman’s rebuttal
 - Voter’s guide: Crystal City Council primary
 - ‘We can do better than this slime ball’ – Richter resigns from Crystal Planning Commission after blog post about council member



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Metro Cities News

July 25, 2014

Met Council Housing Policy Plan Released

The Metropolitan Council is developing a Housing Policy Plan (HPP) that has been released for public comment this week. The plan is the first HPP produced since 1985.

Metro Cities' staff has prepared a summary of the 101-page draft plan, below. Our summary contains highlights of the plan, and notes sections to which we are paying close attention and/or have concerns. The plan is organized by using *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes and principles as key lenses for plan goals and identifies Council and local government roles for each of the sections. The plan is intended to serve as an overall housing policy for the region but has a clear focus on affordable housing.

Metro Cities' concerns center on several plan aspects, including the need for clarity around roles (state, regional, local), the need for the Council to focus its efforts in ways that are aligned with its core mission and functions, the need for additional resources for housing and partnerships around advocacy for resources, the need to have a plan that encompasses policies to meet all demographic needs in the region, and the identification of best practices and technical assistance for communities.

The draft for public comment was amended Monday by the Met Council Community Development Committee, with the contents of the amendment not having been vetted by the HPP work group. The amendment, which added language to the fair housing section, was promoted by advocates for affordable housing/equity who were allowed to comment at the meeting outside of the official public comment period for the plan. The amended language was stripped from the draft HPP on Wednesday by the full Met Council on a 9-8 vote, with concerns by some members on the process for adding the amendment, and with other members supporting adding the amendment to the draft before public comment was taken.

The policy plan contains five sections and a 23-page glossary.

Process for Developing the Plan

The Council appointed a working group of stakeholders that has met monthly over the last year to help develop the plan. Metro Cities' staff and officials from a number of cities have participated on the group along with housing advocates and other stakeholders. Two subgroups were also formed to look at the Allocation of Affordable Housing Need and Housing Performance Scores. These areas are included in Section 3 of the HPP.

Metro Cities, city officials and other participants on the working group expressed concern in June to the Council about tight timelines for the group's review of the contents of the draft plan. The working group had one business day to review the full draft before the plan was released to the Council. The Council has now added an additional meeting of the group in October to review comments and next steps. More information on Metro Cities' concerns can be found in the [July 11 newsletter](#).

Metropolitan Council and Local Government Roles in Housing

Housing is not a designated regional system, and as such the Council's role in housing policy is limited. The Council is statutorily tasked with defining the region's need for low and moderate income housing, and reviews housing elements of local comprehensive plans. Local governments must guide land for the provision of affordable housing through the comprehensive plan process. The Council also administers a regional Section 8 program and provides funding for housing through the Livable Communities Act. Metro Cities' policies oppose elevating housing to regional system status and we have commented on the statutory role during policy discussions and reviewed the draft plan's content closely along these lines.

Introduction – Demographics and Housing Challenges

This section lays out the Council's justification for a housing policy plan and identifies the region's demographics, recent housing production and projections about future housing needs. The draft HPP notes that available funding is inadequate to meet the region's needs. The draft argues that affordable housing education is needed, and notes the opposition to affordable housing in some communities. Metro Cities supports identifying resource levels, gaps and needs in the plan.

Housing and Thrive Outcomes and Principles

This section frames housing policy goals through the lens of the five outcomes in *Thrive MSP 2040* (stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability and sustainability) as well as the principles in *Thrive* (integration, collaboration, accountability). Local roles in the plan are characterized as "strategies" that local governments can undertake to meet housing goals.

Stewardship addresses the need to maintain and preserve existing housing stock, including subsidized as well as naturally occurring affordable housing. Areas for communities to take action include using local code enforcement to maintain housing stock, requiring rental property licensing, providing technical assistance to homeowners, providing resources for housing rehabilitation, and including preservation activities in the housing element of comprehensive plans. This outcome also identifies areas where local governments can support the density requirements that correlate with their community designation in *Thrive MSP 2040*. The HPP also encourages cities to plan for housing in areas that make efficient use of existing infrastructure.

Prosperity addresses planning for housing options to house the region's workforce and to support regional economic competitiveness. The Minnesota Housing Policy Toolbox from the Urban Land Institute is identified in the plan as a key tool/resource. Metro Cities supported strategies such as sub-regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices during plan development, suggesting a range of collaborators and conveners from both inside and outside the Met Council. The section also identifies the combined costs of housing plus transportation as a concern for many residents. The plan recommends improving links between housing clusters and job concentrations.

The **equity** section highlights the Council's desire to promote housing access and to increase the number of affordable units across the region. Identified Council roles include providing resources to assist communities, investing in affordable housing in higher income areas of the region, and advocating for increased financial resources for affordable housing. Local roles include guiding land for the community share of affordable units as well as identifying fiscal devices and controls to meet the community share. Strategies identified include examining local regulatory, fiscal and planning tools to reduce the cost of development, providing financial resources for housing options, acquiring land, partnering with land trusts and Habitat for Humanity, and attracting housing developers. The HPP also identifies strategies to diversify housing in low-income and high-income areas.

The **livability** section focuses on the need to address housing for a culturally diverse population and aging population, building flexible design housing for ongoing adaptability, and community reinvestment in housing stock. The Council's focus on aligning housing and transit infrastructure is also included, recognizing goals of station area planning, place making and walkability.

Sustainability addresses environmental considerations, with the plan encouraging residential reductions in water use, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the HPP states a preference for land use that protects the region's water supply, including planning for groundwater recharge and reuse. The plan identifies GreenStep Cities and the Regional Indicators Initiative as venues for local governments to share best practices and provide technical support.

Allocation of Affordable Housing Need/Housing Performance Score

This section explains the Council's roles around expanding housing options, funding housing development through Livable Communities grants, calculating the allocation of affordable housing need, negotiating goals for housing, calculating housing performance scores and providing technical assistance.

The Met Council determines the allocation of affordable housing need for the region. A subgroup was formed to review the formula used to create the allocation. While the current allocation uses a 60 percent area median income (AMI) affordability threshold, the new formula proposes a range of affordability, which would increase the overall need calculation, but reflect a wider range of needs in each community. A handful of adjustments would also be included as they were in the 2006 formula. The adjustment factors proposed are the ratio of low-wage jobs to low-wage workers (using a 5-mile rather than 10-mile radius as was done in 2006), proximity to transit (including BRT and LRT), and a city's level of existing affordable housing.

The allocation method has not been finalized. Metro Cities participated on the subgroup analyzing the allocation method, and Met Council staff continues to analyze the need methodology, with plans to further engage the subgroup later this year and a full vetting and adoption of a methodology in 2015. Metro Cities has asked Council staff for the need numbers by community using the proposed method, so that we may analyze the outcomes of the proposed formula and prepare to provide comments. Our policies support having the formula account for a range of needs, and that it be fairly distributed, taking into account transit and employment access as well as the level of existing affordable housing in a community. Our policies also support more frequent reviews of the formula.

A subgroup was also formed to examine the calculation of Housing Performance Scores (HPS). The current calculation gives strong consideration to the built housing environment, available tools and recent housing production. The proposed framework expands on these areas and proposes to reweight the following categories: available local tools, tools/resources used in the last five years, affordable units built or affordable opportunities created in the last five years, existing affordable stock, participation in state, regional or county housing programs, and submitted applications for competitive funding processes, such as applications for funds through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Communities will continue to fill out the annual affordable housing production survey as a component in determining recent activity.

Currently, performance scores are primarily used in the scoring for Livable Communities grants. The Council is also looking to tie housing performance to other Council resources, specifically the Regional Solicitation for Transportation Funding. While the current scoring matrix for the regional solicitation includes a housing element, the proposal would use the new Housing Performance Score calculation, described above, in the matrix.

Metro Cities wants to make sure that local efforts receive credit and that there is flexibility around the score. Since not all communities use the same policies or tools to support affordable housing development, Metro Cities supports a range of tools/activities that cities could use depending on local conditions. Furthermore, we reminded the subgroup that not every city is able to directly contribute financial resources for affordable housing development. The proposed scoring framework walks back from more prescriptive proposals, allowing cities to use tools that work for their communities and to receive credit for their use. Metro Cities does not support tying tools to comp plans but having the Met Council provide technical assistance to communities looking to learn more about other strategies they may not currently utilize. The draft HPP identifies the frameworks for the measures, however, additional efforts will be made to finalize them in the next year. Metro Cities and other city participants will continue to engage the Council during this process.

Funding and Resources

Funding and resources
The HPP recognizes that the need for housing resources exceeds availability, and notes the Council's role in funding through the Livable Communities program. The Council will look at ways to resume funding in the Inclusionary Housing Account, but the HPP does not specify if existing funds will be redirected or new funds secured.

Late in the process the HPP group was asked to look at using the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) as a funding source for affordable housing with a potential proposal being an "Affordable Housing SAC Credit" in areas of concentrated poverty. Metro Cities opposes waiving SAC charges for specific Council goals, as this would take a cost-for-service, statutorily prescribed user fee to advance other Council objectives, with the result being a rise in the costs of SAC for other payers and a loss of transparency. Opposition to using SAC for specific Council programs was also affirmed by a recent work group of elected city officials and Met Council members, nevertheless proposals continue to be advanced for discussion at the Council level. Metro Cities supports funding sources for affordable housing and other goals through state and federal resources allocated for these purposes, and supports having the Metropolitan Council be a partner in advocating for these resources.

The Council is looking to incorporate new review criteria for comprehensive plans into the Local Planning Handbook with a goal to "improve the consistency and quality of the housing elements of local comprehensive plans, including stronger alignment between housing implementation programs and need." Metro Cities has told the Council that its provision of technical assistance can accomplish these goals without tying housing implementation programs to the comp plan. The HPP specifies a number of areas the Council can assist local governments, including but not limited to housing preservation strategies, community engagement and mixed-income development.

Opportunities for Impact

Opportunities for impact

Council staff identified a number of areas that will require additional research and outreach by the Council and other partners. Future work plan areas include: reducing barriers to mixed-income housing development, exploring inclusionary housing strategies, assessing strategies to share risk, regional strategies to further fair housing and address housing discrimination, and building wealth and expanding investment in areas of concentrated poverty. Metro Cities will request to participate in future policy discussions and ensure local partners are engaged.

Fair Housing

Fair Housing
The draft identifies several types of housing discrimination, including real estate steering, discrimination in rental housing, mortgage lending discrimination and barriers to financial qualification. The plan notes the Council's limited authority to "tackle this issue alone" and identifies plans to fund research related to fair housing and housing discrimination.

The Community Development Committee, at its meeting on Monday, amended additional language into the draft HPP that recommends that the Council adopt its own fair housing policy and ask its contractors and grantees (including presumably cities) to do the same, which appears to expand the Council's authority in this area. As mentioned above, the full Met Council voted to strip the amended language from the draft HPP. Council Chair Susan Heinrich, who voted to remove the amended language, said she would like the Council's lawyers to look at the proposed fair housing language.

Implementation and Next Steps

Implementation and Next Steps
The final section identifies indicators the Council will use to measure progress of HPP goals. In addition to the areas identified above, the Council will look at how to address equity in a number of other ways. This includes identifying "indicators to measure how Council-supported projects advance equity" and "plan and facilitate, in coordination with the Equity in Place coalition, a series of public engagement sessions in specific communities where more prominent disparities exist in our region."

A section on resiliency notes several assumptions built into the plan and how the plan may change should the assumptions not materialize. These include no additional build out of fixed-route transitways and further lack of resources, even anticipated resources.

Finally, the plan looks at how to quantify success. A list of measures defines the issue being looked at, the baseline and desired direction or trend movement. The ten measures include: housing cost burden, new affordable housing created, balance of low-income households and affordable housing, balance of low-income households and affordable housing in transit station areas, share of regional residential development in transit areas, new affordable housing units in higher income areas, share of region's population in areas of concentrated poverty and racially concentrated areas of poverty, share of Section 8 housing choice vouchers living in areas of concentrated poverty and racially concentrated areas of poverty, regional increase in Housing Performance Scores and affordable housing units funded with Council programs.

The draft notes the Council will use the indicators to hold itself as well as the region accountable for the housing plan. Metro Cities is concerned the working group was limited to a single meeting to discuss the proposed indicators the Council will use to determine "success" or movement "in the right direction."

Plan Approval/Future Work

Plan Approval-Future Work
The Community Development committee approved the draft HPP for public comment and the full Met Council approved it on Wednesday, Public comments will be taken via letter, email, phone, Council website or public testimony. A public hearing will be held on Monday, September 15 at 5 pm in the Council Chambers. All public comments are due Friday, September 26 by 5 pm.

- Written comments: Metropolitan Council, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, 55101
 - Send TTY comments to: 651-291-0904
 - Email: public.info@metc.state.mn.us
 - Record comments on Council's Public Comment Line at 651-602-1500
- Submit comments through the Council's online Your Ideas site, at <http://yourideas.metrocouncil.org>

Changes/amendments to the plan will be considered once feedback is received, before a final HPP is presented for adoption. The HPP work group will reconvene in early October to discuss revisions to the HPP before a final version is released for full Met Council adoption in November.

The full Council is expected to meet at least twice to discuss specific components of the HPP before voting to approve it in November. The Council will take up the fair housing section during one meeting. The second meeting will address the SAC proposal as well as the calculation and expanded use of Housing Performance Scores.

As the "framework" portions of the plan continue to be developed in the next year, it will be critical for the Met Council to engage with city representatives who serve as key implementers of regional policies. Metro Cities' Housing and Economic Development policy committee heard a Met Council staff presentation on the plan and discussed local impacts last week. Metro Cities will provide testimony during the public hearing as well as written comments on the draft policy plan, consistent with our policies. Metro Cities will be closely monitoring and responding to the plan and future policies and issues that emerge from it, and will share our comments in a future newsletter.

Please contact Charlie Vander Aarde at 651-215-4001 or charlie@metrocitysmn.org with any questions.

Timeline for Release of the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Delayed Slightly

The timeline for the TPP has been delayed slightly to allow for Met Council staff to respond to partner agency comments. The draft has not been released for public comment yet but comments from partner agencies like the TAC, TAB and CTIB have been accepted by Council staff to better refine the draft prior to its release.

Partner agency comments on the draft and Met Council responses can be viewed [here](#) and the most recent draft of the TPP will soon be posted. The new schedule pushed the release of the draft for public comment back from July 23 to August 13.

The Met Council Transportation committee will review the draft and move it before the full Council this coming Monday, July 28. Approval of the final plan, despite the delay, is still scheduled to occur this year on December 10.

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July 28, 2014

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Comment Period Open for Inflow-Infiltration Grant Program

Metropolitan Council Environment Services held a public meeting on Thursday to discuss recommended parameters for the new Inflow-Infiltration Grant program and has opened a comment period for the program **until Monday August 4, 2014**. Metro Cities secured a \$2 million bonding appropriation from the 2014 Legislature that will provide grants for I/I mitigation on public infrastructure. Cities are eligible if they have been identified as an excess I/I contributor or have had peak flows within the 20% threshold for being on the I/I list.

The program will work in similar fashion to previous programs, with a few key changes. As with past programs, funding must be used to finance publicly owned projects. Only construction costs (no studies or overhead expenses) are eligible. Grants will be distributed in two allocations until all available funds are expended.

A key change in the program is that actual grant agreements will not be finalized until work is complete and final costs are determined. MCES instead will provide a letter of intent to applicants with an estimate of grant amounts. The intent of this change is to streamline processes for both MCES and city staff, to avoid the need for grant amendments due to changes in the scope of work or other circumstances. See below for additional information on proposed grant requirements and timelines.

Metro Cities' goal is to ensure a workable, user-friendly grant program for cities, and encourages cities to review the proposed program outline and provide any feedback to MCES. Please contact John Atkins at MCES for questions about the program at 651-602-1020. Comments can be submitted to Matt Gsellmeier at MCES at Matthew.Gsellmeier@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1802, or to his mailing address at 390 North Robert Street, Saint Paul MN 55101.

Draft 2014 Municipal Grant Requirements, Guidelines & Timelines

State Requirements from the Appropriation

- The grant must be for capital improvements in municipal wastewater collection systems to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration to the Metropolitan Council's metropolitan sanitary sewer disposal system.
- To be eligible for a grant, a city must be identified by the Metropolitan Council as a contributor of excessive inflow and infiltration or have had peak flows within the 20% threshold.
- Grants from this appropriation are for up to 50 percent of the cost to mitigate the I/I.
- Grant awards will be based on applications from eligible cities that identify eligible capital costs.

- Upon return and execution of signed agreements, payments will be processed to cities based on invoices submitted to determine FRA.
- The Council reserves the right to change these guidelines, if in its sole discretion the results of the process do not equitably allocate the funds.

Draft Calendar:

August 27, 2014	Council approval of guidelines
August 28, 2014	Send notice of final grant program guidelines to cities
September 26, 2014	Grant proposals due from cities
October 10, 2014	MCES notifies cities of their assigned PMA
October 30, 2016	Cities submit pay claims for completed projects
October 15, 2016	FRA determination, grant agreement distributed

MCES processes reimbursement upon receipt of signed agreements.

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Police search for Crystal drug store robber



Police are looking for a man who robbed the Crystal Walgreens store on Bass Lake Road.

Around 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, a man wearing a wig implied that he had a weapon. Police say he got away with cash, cigarettes and Green Dot MoneyPak cards.

The robber is described as a black male, 18 to 30 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches tall with a slender build and a distinct lazy eye. He was wearing a dark colored hooded sweatshirt and what's described as a "cut-up wig."

If you have information, call the Crystal Police Tip Line at (763) 531-1020.

Corey Bork
cbork@twelve.tv

7/29/2014

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West Metro firefighters prepare for oil train emergencies



Crude oil passing through Minnesota on rail cars raised the interest of officials with the West Metro Fire-Rescue District. Earlier this year, they reached out to Canadian Pacific Railroad to receive training on how to prepare for a worst case scenario.

"It was a general curiosity, what is coming through here and what do they really expect us to do?" said Asst. Chief Adam Wodtke of the West Metro Fire-Rescue District. "The general public expects the fire department to do a lot of different things, so we had to really find out, what are we gonna do in this instance, what do we need? What do they want from us?"

Wodtke adds, "It's something we're not gonna deal with that often, but we do absolutely need to be ready for it."

According to MnDOT, every day, seven trains carrying more than 23 million gallons of crude oil pass through Minnesota.

Officials with the West Metro Fire-Rescue District say the general public shouldn't be too concerned, but the state legislature passed a new law this year that implements stricter oversight of railroad companies, requires more railway inspections, and provides for better emergency response training.

New regulations proposed by the federal government this week would further enhance Minnesota's safety measures.

"It's CP's position that stricter federal tank car safety standards is the single most important step to improving rail transport of dangerous goods," said Ed Greenberg, a spokesman for Canadian Pacific Railroad. "And so, CP welcomes the announcement by the US DOT on Wednesday."

In August, several members of the West Metro Fire-Rescue District will be going to Colorado for a training seminar hosted by Canadian Pacific Railroad.

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July 24, 2014

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Crystal Arrest Report

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<u>Case Nbr</u>	<u>Juv</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date Arrested</u>
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		Statute: 609-72-1	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT				
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		Statute: 609-221-1	ASSAULT-AGGR-2ND DEG-FAMILY-KNIFE CUT				
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		Statute: 169A-20-1-5	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC OVER .08 OR MORE W/I 2 HOURS				
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		Statute: 169A-20-1-1	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE				
CYAR14-017224	N	TORRES	FIDEL	DELVILLAR	M	36	07/27/2014 3:27 AM
		Address: UNKNOWN		MINNEAPOLIS	MN		
		Statute: MISWA	MISC OFCR WARRANT ARREST				
CYAR14-017322	N						07/27/2014 9:46 PM
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		Address:					
		Statute: 609-2242-1-2	ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT-MISD				

End of Report

30 Jul 2014



CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA REPORT
CASE ACTIVITY: Previous 7 Days prior to

07/30/2014 7:40 AM

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROP DESCR	DTE
CY14-016803	54-- WEST BROADWAY	ACC-ACCIDENT PUBLIC			07/24/2014 7:30
CY14-017149	56 AV N&YATES AV N	ACC-MOTOR VEHICLE PERSONAL			07/26/2014 18:28
CY14-016814	62-- 56 AV N	ACC-MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY			07/24/2014 10:45
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-017075	52-- WEST BROADWAY	ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT			07/26/2014 2:49
CY14-017430	51-- DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT- DOMESTIC ASSAULT			07/28/2014 22:40
CY14-016772	78-- 36 AV N	ASSAULT-4TH DEG FE-POLICE OFFICERS			07/23/2014 22:43
CY14-017121	46-- WELCOME AV N	ASSAULT-5TH DEG-COMMITS, ATTEMPTS			07/26/2014 15:06
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT-AGGR-2ND			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT-AGGR-2ND			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	ASSAULT-DOM ASSAULT			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-016960	34-- WISCONSIN AV N	ASSAULT-TERR THREATS-INTIMIDATION			07/24/2014 21:33
CY14-016845	27-- DOUGLAS DR N	BURGLARY-NO FORCE-RES-DAY	0	1 BROKEN MAGNAVOX DVD	07/24/2014 17:55
CY14-017383	55-- 56 AV N	CRIMINAL DAMAGE PROP	1,000	2 WINDOWS DAMAGED	07/26/2014 23:00
CY14-017043	54-- WEST BROADWAY	CRIMINAL DAMAGE PROP	100	1 SCHWINN BICYCLE	07/25/2014 22:39
CY14-017282	68-- 56 AV N	CRIMINAL DAMAGE PROP	0	SCRATCHES ON LEFT & RIGHT	07/27/2014 13:45
CY14-017121	46-- WELCOME AV N	DISORDERLY CONDUCT-BRAWLING			07/26/2014 15:06
CY14-016854	54-- WEST BROADWAY	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			07/24/2014 19:56
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-017060	55-- DOUGLAS DR N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			07/26/2014 0:31
CY14-017212	56-- NEVADA AV N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			07/27/2014 2:05
CY14-017430	51-- DOUGLAS DR N	DISTURB-DISORDERLY CONDUCT			07/28/2014 22:40
CY14-016822	34-- PERRY AV N	DOMESTIC ABUSE-VIOLATES OFF			07/24/2014 12:28
CY14-016919	47-- 58 AV N				07/24/2014 12:00

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROP DESCR	DTE
CY14-017404	30-- SUMTER AV N	FORGERY-FORGERY			07/28/2014 17:13
CY14-017404	30-- SUMTER AV N	FORGERY-RECORDING			07/28/2014 17:13
CY14-016844	41-- DOUGLAS DR N	FOUND BICYCLE			07/24/2014 18:01
CY14-016818	55-- WEST BROADWAY	FRAUD-FINANCIAL TRANSACTION CARD	0	1 GUARANTY BANK VISA CARD	07/24/2014 9:47
CY14-016761	51-- 36 AV N	JUV			07/23/2014 18:28
CY14-017162	2-- WILLOW BEND	JUV			07/26/2014 20:15
CY14-016948	52-- 53 AV N	JUV			07/25/2014 14:42
CY14-017385	58-- QUAIL AV N	JUV			07/25/2014 11:47
CY14-017202	47 AV N&WEST	JUV			07/27/2014 0:26
CY14-016896	38 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	LIQUOR-UNDERAGE CONSUMPTION			07/25/2014 2:31
CY14-017328	41-- DOUGLAS DR N	MISC			07/27/2014 23:32
CY14-017209	56-- ORCHARD AV N	MISC			07/27/2014 1:42
CY14-017224	67-- CORVALLIS AV N	MISC			07/27/2014 3:02
CY14-016746	64-- 56 AV N	MISC			07/23/2014 14:35
CY14-016766	69-- 54 AV N	MISC			07/23/2014 19:31
CY14-016811	60-- LAKE LAND AV N	MISC			07/24/2014 10:24
CY14-017111	47-- 58 AV N	MISC			07/26/2014 10:36
CY14-017458	32-- VERA CRUZ AV N	MISC			07/25/2014 0:00
CY14-017481	68-- 56 AV N	ROBBERY-2ND DEG	3,000	\$3,000 IN GREEN DOT CARDS	07/29/2014 8:36
CY14-017481	68-- 56 AV N	ROBBERY-2ND DEG	103	\$103 IN CASH	07/29/2014 8:36
CY14-017431	68-- 56 AV N	ROBBERY-2ND DEG	8	2 PACKS OF CIGARETTES	07/29/2014 8:36
CY14-017460	51 PL N&FLORIDA AV N	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY			07/28/2014 21:02
CY14-016768	55 AV N&SHERBURNE AV	THEFT-FROM VEHICLE	200	1 APPLE IPHONE 5	07/23/2014 17:30
CY14-016815	60-- LAKE LAND AV N	THEFT-FROM VEHICLE	2,500	1 PANASONIC STEREO	07/23/2014 18:15
CY14-016745	51-- 56 AV N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	0	2 US BANK CHECKS	07/23/2014 10:30
CY14-016818	55-- WEST BROADWAY	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	0	1 GUARANTY BANK VISA CARD	07/24/2014 9:47
CY14-016856	2-- WILLOW BEND	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	60	1 COACH WALLET	07/24/2014 16:30
CY14-016856	2-- WILLOW BEND	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	30	\$30 IN CASH	07/24/2014 16:30
CY14-016856	2-- WILLOW BEND	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	0	AN UNSIGNED MONEY ORDER	07/24/2014 16:30

CASE NO	LOCATION	OFFENSE	VALUE	PROP DESCR	DTE
CY14-016856	2-- WILLOW BEND	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	0	1 DRIVER'S LICENSE	07/24/2014 16:30
CY14-016928	52-- 56 AV N	THEFT-OTHER PROPERTY	300	2 BOBCAT RAMPS	07/24/2014 19:30
CY14-016757	3-- WILLOW BEND	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	72	MISC CLOTHING ITEMS	07/23/2014 16:42
CY14-017380	55-- WEST BROADWAY	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	122	MERCHANDISE	07/28/2014 9:51
CY14-017409	47-- 36 AV N	THEFT-SHOPLIFTING	15	\$15.23 IN MERCHANDISE	07/28/2014 18:52
CY14-016767	60-- 56 AV N	TRAF-ACC H&R PD - MV UNOCCUPIED			07/23/2014 19:53
CY14-017316	55 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DL-NO MN DL/WRONG			07/27/2014 20:14
CY14-017336	47 AV N&CO RD 81	TRAF-DRIVE WITHOUT INSURANCE			07/28/2014 1:21
CY14-017155	56 AV N&ELMHURST AV	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			07/26/2014 19:17
CY14-017155	56 AV N&ELMHURST AV	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			07/26/2014 19:17
CY14-017322	56 AV N&ELMHURST AV	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			07/27/2014 21:40
CY14-017336	47 AV N&CO RD 81	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER REVOCATION			07/28/2014 1:21
CY14-017121	46-- WELCOME AV N	TRAF-DRIVING AFTER SUSPENSION			07/26/2014 15:06
CY14-017451	56 AV N&SHERBURNE AV	TRAF-DUI 2ND DEG REFUSAL TO SUBMIT			07/29/2014 1:59
CY14-016772	78-- 36 AV N	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEG REFUSAL TO SUBMIT			07/23/2014 22:43
CY14-017451	56 AV N&SHERBURNE AV	TRAF-DUI 3RD DEGREE			07/29/2014 1:59
CY14-016896	38 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			07/25/2014 2:31
CY14-017200	55 AV N&SHERBURNE AV	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			07/27/2014 0:24
CY14-017428	36 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEG ALCOHOL CONC			07/28/2014 21:46
CY14-016772	78 -- 36 AV N	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			07/23/2014 22:43
CY14-016896	38 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			07/25/2014 2:31
CY14-017200	55 AV N&SHERBURNE AV	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			07/27/2014 0:24
CY14-017336	47 AV N&CO RD 81	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			07/28/2014 1:21
CY14-017428	36 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-DUI 4TH DEGREE			07/28/2014 21:46
CY14-016896	38 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-ILLEGAL MOVEMENT ON RED			07/25/2014 2:31
CY14-016772	78-- 36 AV N	TRAF-OPEN			07/23/2014 22:43
CY14-016829	30 AV N&SUMTER AV N	TRAF-SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM			07/24/2014 8:02
CY14-016896	38 AV N&DOUGLAS DR N	TRAF-ZERO TOLERANCE-UNDERAGE			07/25/2014 2:31

End of Report

Recreation Department Update

August 1, 2014

Splash Bash

On Saturday, July 26 the Crystal Cove hosted the SPLASH BASH at the Crystal Cove Aquatic Center as a Frolic event. 211 participants enjoyed splashing to some totally fun tunes and playing some fun pool games. There was also a BIGGEST SPLASH contest, which was fun to participate in and watch!

Frolics Softball

The Crystal Frolics Softball Tournament was a big success this year with a total of 72 teams competing. Games were held the last weekend of July, and were played at Becker, Welcome, Lions Valley Place, and Bassett Creek Park in Crystal, along with a few fields in Brooklyn Center. Congratulation should be extended to the following teams for winning their respective divisions.

Gold (Class C) – *Xtreme/Miken*
Silver (Class D) – *BP Athletic.com*
Co-Rec – *U4IC Brewing*

Frolics Baggo

The 8th Annual Crystal Frolics Baggo Tournament was a huge success. A total of 20 teams did their best tossing to try to become Baggo Champion. In the end team Fatman & Slobbin went home with a hefty sum of Gift Certificates from Buffalo Wild Wings. The weather was perfect. All teams are already excited for the 9th Annual Tournament. Thank you to the teams who participated, and congrats to the team who won the great prizes.

1st – Fatman & Slobbin
2nd – Boom Goes the Dynamite
Consolation Champs – Asgard's Finest

Frolics Senior Card Tournaments

The nine Crystal Frolics Senior Tournaments were a great success with over 300 participants! Thanks so much to our sponsor, Crystal Care Center, who provided the refreshments and prizes for all of the tournaments!

Sun Post
7-31-14

Candidate forum tackles taxes, redevelopment, and more

By Joe Bowen

Budziszewski, Parsons at odds over tax increase claim

Hosted by the League of Women Voters, a forum was held to give candidates in Crystal's primary elections for three city council seats a chance to tell voters their views on a variety of topics, ranging from the city's role in development to the proposed public works facility and mill and overlay project.

Notably, candidate John Budziszewski, incumbent council member representing Section II, told the audience that his opponents, Olga Parsons and Karen Lincoln, want to raise Crystal's property taxes if elected.

"My message to you is that I'm opposed to increasing property taxes ... My candidates here to the left of me," he said, gesturing towards Parsons and Lincoln, "especially Olga, want to raise taxes."

Parsons responded in a statement later in the week denying the allegation, which she was unable to do because of the format of the League's debate. "Since announcing my campaign in late spring, my position regarding property taxes and special assessments has been clear: We must minimize the residents' financial burden of living in Crystal. I oppose raising taxes and saddling our residents with bloated special assessments."

Budziszewski, for his part, elaborated in a similar statement released after the forum.

"What she's saying is not the same as 'I will not raise your taxes, period!' We have no proof Ms. Parsons believes in not raising your taxes like she claims, and we have a long-time friend of hers saying that she does indeed plan to increase your taxes," Budziszewski wrote.

The "long-time friend" is Jason Bradley, chair of the Senate District 45 GOP. At the forum, Budziszewski claimed that Bradley had said Parsons was in favor of increased taxes. Bradley claims he was misquoted.

Candidates were asked a series of questions by Moderator Jo Bogdan on redevelopment, the city's new public works facility, and more. Groups of candidates were asked differing sets of questions.

On the city's role in redevelopment

"Ultimately, the city itself has been very instrumental in not only in looking at acquiring properties but also looking at opportunities by which we can provide additional redevelopment within the city itself," said Budziszewski, claiming that the number of vacant pieces of property in the city had been reduced from 40 to about eight in the past four years.

Said Parsons on the city's role, "the first step should be to see what the private sector and the private market can do and then move it on up to the city, if that is indeed a serious concern for the wellbeing and safety and success of the city."

On bonding

"I think bonding is an important financial tool that we need to keep open in our minds when we're looking at financial issues. We need to have that full financial toolbox open when you're having discussions on the

building of the public works building or mill and overlay on the streets,” said Joe Selton, incumbent Ward 2 candidate.

“I agree with Joe that bonding is one of the tools of the financial toolbox, but I don’t think it’s the only tool in the toolbox. I think that too often it’s the difference between deciding to pay with cash or put it on your credit card and finance it. I think that the city has been spending a lot of time putting a lot of things on their credit card instead of looking at what we can do with cash.” said Jeff Kolb, who is challenging Selton in Ward 2.

On the city’s public works facility

“I think we need to take a step back, look at the project, see what can be done to reduce the cost of the citizens before we go forward,” said Elizabeth Dahl, Ward 1 candidate.

“I believe that we should pay partially with money that we do have in our building fund – I don’t think we should drain it. We’re pulling dollars and we’re borrowing from other city funds that are not meant for this particular purpose. We can get by with it on a short term, but the city really doesn’t have a bundle of money that we’re sitting on to fund anything,” said Mark Hoffmann, Ward 1 incumbent.

“This is one of the things that really drives me crazy about the current council is the fact that we are so far along down the process with the public works facility but we don’t know how we’re going to pay for it yet and I just don’t understand how you can responsibly take a vote to move forward with a project when you don’t have the answer as to how you’re going to pay for it,” said Kolb.

“We need to do this project, but the problem is is everybody’s jumping the gun. We haven’t even gotten the bids in. WE’re waiting on that issue right now. The financing, we were agreeable to paying some cash for the issue, but there was no way of replenishing that fund once we paid down that fund,” said Selton.

“I don’t think enough research was done on the public works building before it was initiated because the costs seem to keep rising and rising and rising,” said Lincoln.

On joint powers agreements and collaborating with other cities

“Right now, we always are looking at other cities in terms of sharing costs. Be it like Park and Rec with Robbinsdale or working with Brooklyn Center in terms of maybe possibly a homeless youth organization,” said Budziszewski.

“Although we don’t have formal agreements, we do a lot of park and recreation with all of our surrounding communities. We share pools with New Hope, we do programs with Robbinsdale. Over the years we’ve had serious conversations with New Hope in particular on consolidating the police department,” said Hoffmann.

Other candidates agreed that room for collaboration existed, but were unsure as to specific ways in which it could be accomplished.

On ‘feel good’ projects

“The solar panels that were on city hall is a perfect example of a feel good project because that phrase was used to describe it in a city council work session. That is a project that is a million dollars of taxpayer money and only part of that came from Crsytal, yes, but it’s all taxpayer money. All of the money for this prject either came from the taxpayers or it came from the ratepayers of Xcel energy,” said Kolb.

"The first community center project was \$300,000 and that was no cost to the citizens at all. The other two projects we put on, the pool, which is only operated 3 months out of the year so that meter will be running backwards for the next nine months, and also on city hall ... basically we got an involvement of about \$66,000 with lawyer fees to look at the contracts for about a million dollars worth of project," said Selton.

Contact Joe Bowen at joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com

7-31-14

COLUMN: Sounding off on Bowman, et. al

By Sun Post Editor

I must say, I'm impressed with the attention our little group has gotten over the last week. First, Crystal Councilmember Mark Hoffman called out my colleague Andrew Richter in a city work session for an article he wrote. Next, Councilmember John Budziszewski brought up my name in the MN League of Women Voters candidate forum, and distorted a conversation we had. Lastly, ReNae Bowman, the former mayor of Crystal, penned a strange hit piece last week, espousing her opinion on an event we held that she did not attend.

In 2010, ReNae endorsed John and Mark. A more conspiracy-minded fellow might almost think it was a coordinated attack.

First, a little background: Community Solutions MN was a group born out of desperation. When I discovered the plans for the reconstruction of County Road 81, and its effects on my neighborhood, I worked with others to fill up the council chambers to stop it. Only, it passed. Something seemed wrong. We buried our heads in articles and books to learn (and educate others) about local government. We were troubled by some of the trends we found.

That brings us to today. We've been active in the community reporting on local issues that most people don't hear about. We've conducted metro-wide local candidate training, and have been asked to speak at events across the Twin Cities. We have encouraged individuals to get involved in the process by running for office or joining commissions, and we've seen people get involved across the metro. Does that sound like the activities of an anti-government or anti-community group?

The truth is, we disagree with a lot of the actions of the Crystal City Council. We feel that reasonable people can disagree, but unfortunately some of our elected officials, past and present, don't subscribe to that theory. When we started going to city council meetings we were condescended to, insulted, and treated like we just weren't smart enough. We have been called "conspiracy theorists," "anarchists," "un-American," and worse. Ms. Bowman has a long history of intemperate behavior toward those who disagree with her. In fact, just the other day she was mocking the non-incumbent candidates at the forum and being combative with attendees. So her pleading to stop the name calling and fear-mongering are pretty disingenuous.

Councilmember Hoffman has displayed that same condescending attitude (without using the inciting language) to concerned citizens at council meetings, further weakening his outrage about the behavior of others.

The most curious of all might be Councilmember Budziszewski, who claimed at the candidate forum that I told him (Candidate for Section 2) Olga Parsons wanted to raise property taxes. I said nothing of the sort. The disagreement here is that John is in favor of assessing and bonding for big spending items because it doesn't show up on the budget. This is a more expensive option to the taxpayer because of the associated interest in the payback phase. So while John is going around saying he isn't in favor of raising property taxes, he's at the same time voting in favor of assessing and bonding, which are just taxation by other names. I know for a fact Olga's platform includes reducing overall city spending, and for him to claim that I told him otherwise is patently false.

I'm disappointed in the tactics of our elected officials, but not discouraged. Community Solutions MN will continue fighting for liberty and good government, despite the contempt of those who disagree with us. After all, they only have themselves to thank for our existence.

Jason Bradley is a musician and a co-founder of Community Solutions MN, who's lived in Crystal for 15 years.

Crystal Police report for the week of July 31

By Joe Bowen

Following are some of the incidents reported recently to Crystal Police:

ASSAULT

- July 16 on the 3000 block of Wisconsin Avenue North.
- July 17 on the 3700 block of Yates Avenue North.
- July 18 on the 6000 block of Lakeland Avenue North.
- July 19 on the 3400 block of Wisconsin Avenue North.
- July 21 at the intersection of 36th Avenue North and Maryland Avenue North.
- July 21 on the 2700 block of Kentucky Avenue North.
- July 21 at the intersection of 45th Avenue North and Welcome Avenue North.
- July 22 on the 5900 block of 38th Avenue North.

BURGLARY

- July 17 on the 3500 block of Hampshire Avenue North.
- July 21 on the 5200 block of Hanson Court North.

ROBBERY

- July 19 on the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue North.
- July 20 on the on the 6800 block of 32nd Avenue North.

THEFT

- July 21 on the 3500 block of Quail Avenue North.
- July 18 on the 3500 block of Hampshire Avenue North.
- July 18 on the 5300 block of West Broadway.
- July 16 on the 3100 block of Winnetka Avenue North.
- July 21 on the 4100 block of Hampshire Avenue North.
- July 19 on the 4300 block of Brunswick Avenue North.
- July 19 on the 5300 block of 48th Avenue North.

- July 21 on the 5500 block of West Broadway.
- July 21 on the 4800 block of Douglas Drive North.
- July 19 on the 5300 block of 36th Avenue North.
- July 20 on the 5300 block of 36th Avenue North.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

- July 16 on the 3100 block of Winnetka Avenue North.
- July 21 at the intersection of 36th Avenue North and Maryland Avenue North.
- July 21 on the 5800 block of Crystal Airport Road.
- July 18 on the 3500 block of Hampshire Avenue.
- July 21 on the 4100 block of Hampshire Avenue.

OTHER

Crystal Police made seven arrests for assault.

Frolicking across Crystal

By Joe Bowen

The Crystal Frolics took place July 24-27 across the city of Crystal. Attendees braved a brief rain shower to watch Mayor Jim Adams – in a Hawaiian shirt tossing beachballs to the crowd – and other dignitaries in the Frolics' parade. Kids and parents alike rode carnival rides, ate cheese curds, and tried Mexi corn at the festival's many food booths.

Members of the Crsytal VFW and Freedom Riders Motorcycle Club led the parade, which wound through Becker Park. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



The Frolics' annual softball tournament drew teams from across the state and midwest. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

Maple Grove's World Taekwondo Academy was well-represented in the Frolics' parade. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



Participants fill out forms for the Crystal Frolics scavenger hunt. (Submitted photo)



The Frolics featured dozens of carnival rides for kids and parents to enjoy. (Submitted photo)

Food vendors and classic carnival rides, such as a merry-go-round, were in abundance at the Frolics. (Submitted photo)



The Frolics featured dozens of carnival rides for kids and parents to enjoy. (Submitted photo)

Members of the Crystal Police Department, including Chief Stephanie Revering, right, marched in the festival's parade. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



New this year was "Mexi corn": corn slathered with cotija cheese and seasoning. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



The Brooklyn Park Lions Drum and Bugle Corps was at the forefront of the Frolics' parade. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



The Fun Slide was a popular attraction. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

The Frolics featured dozens of carnival rides for kids and parents to enjoy. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)

Even fully-grown adults got in on the carnival fun. (Sun Post staff photo by Joe Bowen)



Sun Post

7-31-14

In support of 'feel good' projects

By Sun Post Editor

To the editor:

It was interesting to attend the League of Women Voter's Crystal Candidate Forum on July 22. I discovered that council candidates who were against the city spending money on "feel-good projects" were referring to the recent solar panels that have been added to three of our public buildings.

I must confess that I do "feel good" about this, and I am proud that the majority of our current council leadership took a role in moving our city to support long-term, sustainable solar energy.

This project became a great deal for Crystal, thanks in large part to an Xcel Energy rebate. Xcel provides such rebates to help them reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy, while also lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Another significant benefit to Xcel is that they won't need to build costly additional energy plants as more of us use solar and wind power. I'm thankful our council had the common sense to utilize the benefits of a rebate program that is paid for by all Xcel ratepayers, including Crystal residents. So, our solar panels are a win for Crystal residents, Xcel Energy and our environment. This is the kind of "feel good" project that we could use more of!

During the forum, candidates tripped over one another to proclaim they were against raising taxes, yet few, if any, specifics were provided. While the idea of lower taxes is appealing, slashing services isn't a way to make our city more attractive to new homebuyers or retain existing residents that like our quality of life.

Dan Johnson

Crystal

LETTER: On mill and overlay

By Sun Post Editor

To the editor:

I just read the story of the council deciding to go ahead with the 60/40 plan of property assessment on everyone concerning the Mill and Overlay for the street project started 20 years ago. Does the council and city engineer understand that we in the north part of the city do not have new roads yet? Our area (Phase 14) is part of the 20-year road improvement project to begin and end in 2015 (for our area), and now I am supposed to pay even more for improvements on roads I do not have!? Really? You cannot wait until at least the first 20-year project is completed? So we are going to be assessed over \$5,000 (not sure yet) and now an additional \$1,600? What were properties in the south assessed 20 years ago? This is so inequitable.

I agree with Mayor Jim Adams that this is another tax burden placed on homeowners and it does smell of politics. At least let me look out my window to a new street before charging me even more money.

Dave Elsbury

Crystal

LETTER: Rebutting Bowman's rebuttal

By Sun Post Editor

To the editor:

I read Mrs. Selton (nee) Bowman's commentary on the Metropolitan Council. While there are few things that she and I will or can agree on, her characterization of the Metropolitan Council and concern for how cities could operate without its efforts is interesting.

From my perspective, cities would plan more efficiently and with less expense to taxpayers without an unelected council of members who answer only to Governor Du Jour dictating policy to the vast bureaucracy that the Met Council has become, with nearly 3,700 people employed.

Established a little over 40 years ago, the Met Council's operating budget in 2013 was \$828.4 million, which is funded in several ways:

- 39 percent – user fees, such as transit fares and wastewater treatment charges
- 47 percent – state and federal funds
- 10 percent – metropolitan-wide property tax
- 4 percent – other sources

All these revenue streams cost individual taxpayers through increased taxation. How can transit fares be revenue when public transit is notoriously not expected to pay its way?

San Diego Transit, light rail operating since 1989, still spends more on operation, maintenance and replacement of aging equipment than the fare system can support. Even with planned regional growth and increased density, it is a drain on taxpayers, most of whom will never use it.

I focused on transit by Met Council because the Bottineau Boulevard extension of light rail will have major impacts on the quality of life of residents of Crystal. Trains will run through Crystal every 7.5 minutes for 6.5 hours a day to meet projected rush hour transit needs.

This adds a new level of congestion for commuters who will never use it. There is no transit service from where they live to where they work. In all the regional planning for the Twin Cities, there is no accommodation for commuters from northwestern suburbs to more southern suburbs like Bloomington, Edina or anywhere other than Eden Prairie, which already has an express bus.

This seems to be a major flaw in regional planning efforts across the country. Projects are designed on what could be, not on practical movement of people. It is time to take this type of planning back to the most local level.

Candace Oathout

Voter's guide: Crystal City Council primary

By Joe Bowen

Three candidates each for three available seats

The primary election for the Crystal City Council will pare the field of nine contenders down to six. Three seats are available on the council, and each has two new candidates and one incumbent in the running for it.

The four-year terms of incumbents John Budziszewski, Mark Hoffmann and Joe Selton end this year. Budziszewski represents Section II, Hoffmann Ward 1 and Selton Ward 2.

The primary election will take place Tuesday, Aug. 12, and will narrow the field to two candidates per seat. The general election, held Nov. 4, will select a winner.

Section II

Section II is generally located north of 45th Avenue North in the city and encompasses the city's third and fourth wards.

John Budziszewski (incumbent)

Address: 5308 47th Ave. N.

Family: My wife, Heidi, and our two kids, Wyatt and Bria.

Education: Humboldt High School; B.A. from the University of Minnesota in International Relations.

Occupation: Commercial banking; delivers news overnight for an independent news service.

Years you have lived in the city: 17

Community/civic organizations involvement: Habitat for Humanity; ally of PRIDE; blood donor of 10 years.

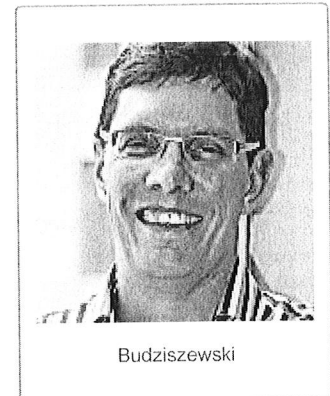
Have you run for any other office in the past?: Yes

How people can contact you: 612-207-3704

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

Opposed to increasing property taxes and support the expiration of the CR 81 levy.

What measures would you propose to address those issues?



I see property tax reform happening at the state level and it is important to me that the homeowners receive this refund without encumbrances. As for the CR 81 levy, this is the city's portion of the CR 81 Bottineau Blvd. project; the city council was adamant that upon completion of CR 81 the levy would expire. I support this action and will voice opposition to any proposed action retaining the levy in perpetuity.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

It is my goal to ensure the safety of the community, to minimize the LRT impact on residents and businesses along the rail corridor, and within our city's borders. Right now, the city's focus is on noise both rail and horn, configuration of the Bass Lake Road Station, how traffic will be affected and the potential adverse impact to public safety. After the feasibility study and the environmental impact statement are completed, there will be public hearings to discuss the findings and if needed clarification on the proposed timeline and cost. Please keep in mind that this project will not take place before the Southwest LRT. As a city official, it is important to me that when Light Rail finally comes to Crystal that we have participated in the discussion regarding its implementation both financially and logistically.

Karen Lincoln

Address: 4706 Xenia Ave N.

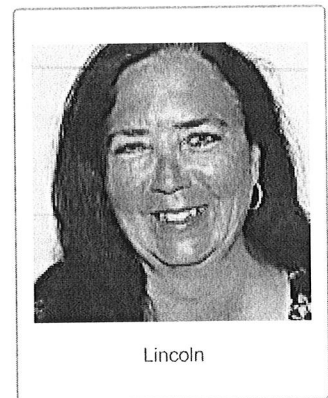
Family: Single parent of twin teens and a young adult

Education: Two years of college

Occupation: IRS-registered tax preparer and waitress

Years you have lived in the city: 23

Community/civic organizations involvement: Member and active volunteer with The Bridge, Reclaim, and Transforming Families.



Lincoln

Have you run for any other office in the past?: This is my first run for public office

How people can contact you: lincolnforcrystal@gmail.com

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

As I have moved about the city talking to residents of Crystal, these are the issues I have uncovered:

The first issue is that residents of Crystal feel that the city council does not listen, is not responsive and that decisions are made before city council meetings and without their input.

The second issue is a lack of diversity in the city's workforce. The workforce does not mirror the diversity of the residents.

The third issue people have raised is the level of taxes compared to the level of services received. Taxes continue to rise while services decline. People don't mind paying taxes as long as they can see that they are

receiving value for their money. People are particularly upset about flooding after improperly installed drainage systems.

What measures would you propose to address those issues?

I will establish a resident hotline, incorporate office hours and hold listening sessions in the community. I will be available by email and respond to emails I receive. I will listen – really listen – to people's ideas and concerns.

Launch a campaign to encourage a diverse bank of candidates to apply for positions in Crystal. Encourage diversity training for city employees including training on workplace ethics and culture.

Provide a simple annual report to the community on services provided by the city and the cost of those services so that residents can understand and appreciate where their tax dollars are going.

Ensure that a competitive bidding process is used for the purchase of all city goods and services to minimize costs.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

On this issue, as with any other issue, I will listen to the varying views of Crystal residents. My role will be to advocate for what is best for the residents of Crystal. I am particularly concerned that the cost and negative impact on our small businesses is not worth the trade-off for any benefit this light rail line might serve. I believe there are people who stand to gain from this but they aren't the residents of Crystal.

Olga Parsons

Address: 4951 Jersey Ave N.

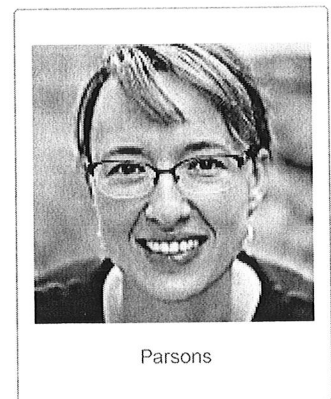
Family: Husband John of 10 years; sons Josiah, age 9, and Judah, age 5.

Education: Did not respond.

Occupation: Homemaker

Years you have lived in the city: 8

Community/civic organizations involvement: Volunteer as communication assistant helping kids and families through their adoption and post-adoption journey; volunteer flutist with the Medalist Concert Band; past volunteer as crisis-phone line counselor with Love Lines Crisis Center.



Have you run for any other office in the past? Did not respond.

How people can contact you: 612-217-2337

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

1. Lack of transparency in City Hall, and respect towards residents and their concerns.
2. The need for accountability and responsibility in fiscal management.
3. Creating a more business-friendly atmosphere.

What measures would you propose to address those issues?

1. Council members should put Crystal residents first. They must conduct themselves openly, be better connected to their community and respectfully take the residents' input into consideration. Council members should take initiative to inform the residents of projects affecting their neighborhoods, finances and the future of the city.
2. Council members should respect the residents' hard-earned money, and avoid unnecessary and frivolous spending. We need to ensure that property taxes remain low, while infrastructure and public safety are not neglected. I support a thorough review of the budget to maximize efficiency and eliminate wasteful spending.
3. A thriving local economy is essential to Crystal's future. The council should proactively eliminate roadblocks to businesses coming and thriving in Crystal. Council members should listen to the concerns of our business community, and actively work to meet their needs.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

I will respectfully and sincerely listen to the concerns of Crystal residents, and strive to honestly and fairly represent their views. At this point, my main concerns with Bottineau Light Rail Transit are public safety due to traffic congestion, the potential for more financial burden on the city, and long-term solvency of the project. Overall, I am committed to being an active listener and advocate for the residents in Section 2.

Ward 1

Ward 1 generally occupies the southern portion of the city, below 45th Avenue North and opposite Section II.

Elizabeth Dahl

Address: 8217 30th Ave N.

Family: Caleb Dahl (married 7 years) and three children

Education: Some college

Occupation: Small business owner

Years you have lived in the city: 3.5

Community/civic organizations involvement:

Co-host and organizer for the Great Winnetka Hills Meet-Up 2014. I am the lead for my Winnetka Hills neighborhood through Nextdoor.com. Vice-president and then president of Minnesota Families for Midwifery from 2009-2013.

Have you run for any other office in the past? No

How people can contact you: 612-567-3353

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

Crystal City Council should consider:

1. Responsible Spending
2. Respectful interaction, transparency and accountability towards Crystal citizens.

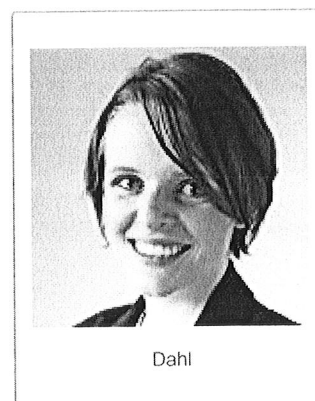
What measures would you propose to address those issues?

1. The budget needs to be re-looked at, spending priorities should be made clear to the public (I would personally encourage core services to be top priority, such as fire, police and road maintenance). Additionally, city council members should consult their constituents and lay out options well in advance before voting through new additions to assessments or tax levies.
2. To wisely represent your constituents you must know what they are thinking, and be willing to learn from them. The city council should not simply be willing to bring citizen experts into the conversations, they should pointedly ask for them as decisions are being made. Transparency and accountability will naturally flow from a more open and honest relationship with Crystal citizens.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

As a city council member I would see it my role to improve the quality of life of those that live here. If the Bottineau Light Rail can be shown as beneficial to a large portion of the population here in Crystal, I would support it. But at this point the numbers I have seen show that only a very small portion of the population will benefit from this rail system, while at a very high cost to Crystal residents. As of now there are other less expensive, less disruptive to traffic and more energy-efficient mass transit options available, such as buses and ride share programs.

Ongoing conversations with Crystal residents and transit experts will be essential to making wise decisions regarding this issue.



Mark Hoffmann (incumbent)

Address: 3307 Zane Ave N.

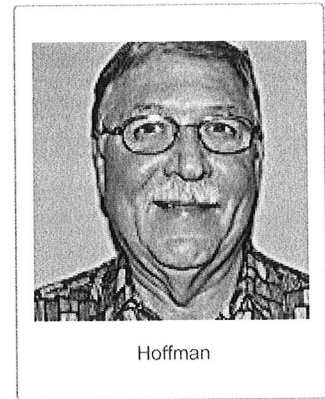
Family: Joanie, three children, eight grandchildren

Education: No response given

Occupation: Retired retail management and sales

Years you have lived in the city: 38 years

Community/civic organizations involvement: West Metro Fire-Rescue District Board of Directors since 2010; Bottineau LRT Policy Advisory Committee since 2011; Crystal Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission 1980-1989



Hoffman

Have you run for any other office in the past?: Mayor, 2004, not elected

How people can contact you: 763-536-0385

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

I see the budget as the largest, most important and all encompassing issue that the city of Crystal must address at any time. As a fully developed community we do not have large areas of opportunity to increase tax base except through redevelopment which usually has a short term cost. I have always believed and practiced that we must strive to improve, and at least maintain, our core services: public safety, utilities and recreation without putting undue tax or spending increases on our taxpayers.

What measures would you propose to address those issues?

I would first continue with my proven experience and leadership in building a fiscally sound and prudent budget that meets the values our residents expect and deserve. Over the last four years, the city has benefited from strong control of revenue and expenses, resulting in under a \$13 annual tax increase for the average taxpayer.

Through years of reduced state aid and holding taxes tighter, most of the reductions have already been made, which have, in most areas, put us at minimal levels. I look for smaller cuts and ways to increase revenue through non-property tax increases. A thorough review of services offered and cost of service must be watched and adjusted as needed to have the beneficiary pay the fair value.

I have never felt it is wrong to receive money from another government entity or business to help reduce our General Fund expenses. LGA has been cut dramatically in the past, and is now being increased slightly. To be transparent we should use it in the General Fund. Normally, we do show a surplus, and I believe part of these dollars should be used to decrease the next year's tax liability.

Another example is last year we received funding for solar panels with grants from government and private sources for the Community Center, which is projected to save 10 percent of our electric costs for that building. Our contribution for the purchase and installation is the 10 percent savings on electricity for the first six years. A no-cost venture that should feel good for all taxpayers.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

At this point there have been a number of public meetings, online info and articles. We must continue to encourage participation, sooner rather than later. I believe the long-range economic benefit and

transportation needs will more than make up for the initial costs and create opportunities. I would like to continue being Crystal's representative on future task forces for this project.

Carla McPipe

Address: 3010 Winnetka Ave N.

Family: Single parent of two boys

Education: AS Degree Criminal Justice, currently completing AS Degree in Business Management, real estate certificate

Years you have lived in the city: 8

Community/civic organizations involvement: Nice Ride; African-American Culture Club; YWCA

Have you run for any office? This is my first run for public office.

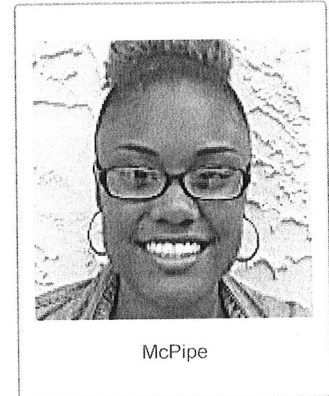
How people can contact you: mcpipeforcrystal@gmail.com

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

- 1.) Residents not being heard and their opinions not being considered.
- 2.) Business property vacancies and the effects of these vacancies on tax rates for other property owners and renters.
- 3.) Youth involvement programs that are affordable for parents and that provide recreation to keep kids off the street and out of trouble.
- 4.) Taxpayers need to have more input on how their tax dollars are spent.

What measures would you propose to address those issues?

- 1.) Make a concerted effort to talk to people in the community by holding regular office hours. Respond to emails and telephone calls so people know their input really matters. Set up times to meet with people who have specific concerns so these concerns are heard.
- 2.) Educate people on real estate and direct people toward resources that are available to assist them with starting or expanding their businesses. Educate potential homeowners and encourage responsible home ownership.
- 3.) Set up events for young people. Raise funds for additional recreational opportunities for youth and families. This will encourage youth to participate in the life of the city and to grow into tomorrow's leaders.
- 4.) Help the people of Ward 1 to understand the city's budget and budgetary process and provide opportunities for their input.



Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

This issue will have significant impact on Crystal residents. People of all views need to be heard on this issue. My personal belief is that the light rail is expensive, unnecessary and will bring unwanted traffic to the city, and possibly increase crime and other problems.

Ward 2

Ward 2 sits in the central portion of the city, south of 45th Avenue North and opposite Section II.

Jeff Kolb

Address: 6404 38th Ave N.

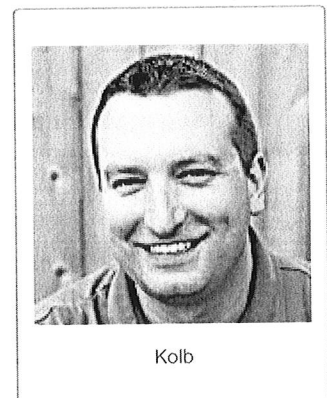
Family: Wife Erin (14 years), Son James (11 months old)

Education: Did not respond

Occupation: Small business owner, technology industry

Years you have lived in the city: 3

Community/civic organizations involvement: Crystal Planning Commissioner, board member; Crystal Business Association, volunteer consultant; American Foundation for Cardiomyopathy



Have you run for any other office in the past?: No

How can people contact you? 612-314-5652

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

The top issues facing Crystal are 1.) Responsible spending 2.) Keeping our neighborhoods safe and 3.) Ensuring City Hall is responsive and accountable

What measures would you propose to address those issues?

1.) We need a full, top-down budget review process that looks at spending priorities. We can't afford "feel-good" projects like the ones the council has voted for recently. Our elected officials need to remember there is no "free money"—it all comes from the pockets of the citizens.

2.) We need to continue our efforts to maintain safe and strong neighborhoods by keeping a focus on engaging citizens. Last year we had a record number of Night to Unite parties in Crystal. I would like to build on that momentum and use it to help revitalize our Neighborhood Watch program. There are also opportunities to leverage public/private partnerships like the Crystal Crime Prevention Board, which my wife

is a board member of. We should also look to our neighbors such as Robbinsdale and emulate what is successful there.

3.) City government should work for the citizens, and sometimes City Hall needs to be reminded of that. As a council member I will focus on making sure citizens' needs are represented.

It seems like the only time most citizens hear from their council member is every few years when they need your vote. One of my goals on the council is to foster ongoing two-way communication with citizens.

On the Planning Commission I write a recap of every meeting, and explain why I voted the way I did on the issues and post them on my website at www.KolbForCrystal.com (you can go there to check out old meetings). If elected, I will continue the practice of explaining my votes to the citizens after every meeting.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

I like trains. I frequently rode "The L" when I traveled to Chicago for work, and I even rode "the Tube" when I visited London. However, those cities have a population density to support rail transit, while Minneapolis/St. Paul does not.

LRT is the most expensive and inflexible mode of transit. A train can't provide door-to-door service to our seniors and citizens with mobility challenges like a bus can.

We should explore more bus-based transit to meet our current and future transit needs. This is a much more cost effective and flexible option that is more respectful of the taxpayers at all levels.

Randy Rosario

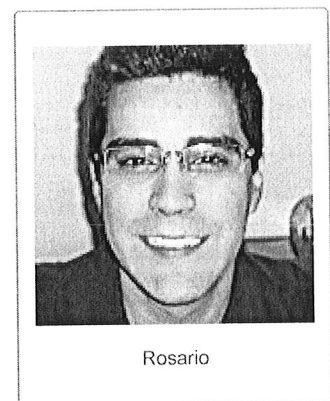
Address: 6609 43rd Ave. N.

Family: Debra Rosario, two children

Education: High school diploma and current student at Hennepin Technical

Occupation: Wholesale specialist at Motorwerks BMW

Years you have lived in the city: I have lived in Crystal for at least 5 years and in the surrounding area for 15-plus years (Golden Valley, New Hope and Plymouth)



Rosario

Community/civic organizations involvement: Advocate and youth mentor for Midwest Extreme Outdoors, a youth mentoring program involved with fishing and the great outdoors.

Have you run for any other office in the past? This will be my first attempt at running for any type of office.

How people can contact you: randyrosario72.wordpress.com

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?

The current Public Works facility and its financial responsibility, the power grid in the local area and the possibility of repairs that need to be made and finally the street maintenance project and how it is to be funded.

What measures would you propose to address those issues?

While I do not oppose the new public works facility I would like to know how it is being funded, the financial impact on the taxpayers (if any) and addressing any of the "old" facilities shortcomings in the "new" facility. If these things have been properly addressed, then I have no further input or objection to the building of the facility.

I would like to see an assessment of the current power grid, especially in Ward 2. I have lived in my home for the past five years and have suffered through power outages that have at least in one case lasted a week. I cycle my ward frequently and see power poles that lean to what would appear to be a dangerous angle. I would like to see that these problems are assessed and addressed.

To date the issue of how to pay for the current street maintenance has yet to be addressed. I believe by the time this appears in print it may be resolved and I will be watching to see its outcome. Currently the debate is whether to pay for the projects through special assessments or through a tax levy. I believe that an assessment is the best solution for both the taxpayers and the city.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the northwest metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

While the Light Rail basically will skirt the majority of the Crystal area I would like to work with our neighboring cities in regard to the traffic issues and involvement from Crystal.

I would like to work with the citizen concerns regarding the Light Rail and its impact on our city and help to develop strategies that will safeguard our involvement when the Light Rail is near completion. Make no mistake about it: should the Light Rail act as its builders anticipate in rider participation, it will impact our city. Impact will come in increased traffic through our city and an influx of new residents that will seek to find living on the outskirts of the metro area as the Light Rail will make travelling into the metro that much easier.

The benefits in increased renters, home buyers and new small businesses, as well as job opportunities created by the line, are weighed by the eventual increase in policing and public maintenance that need to be thought of now so that we, the city of Crystal, are prepared.

Joe Selton (incumbent)

Address: 3916 Edgewood Ave. N., Brownwood neighborhood, Ward 2.

Family: Wife ReNae; daughters Joann (and Rick), Elizabeth and Sheri; step-daughter Amber (and Brian); eight grandchildren.

Education: Patrick Henry High, Minneapolis; Anoka-Hennepin Technical College, Anoka; University of Minnesota – LES, Minneapolis; University of Wisconsin – ESW, Madison; William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center at Placid Harbor, Hollywood, Md.

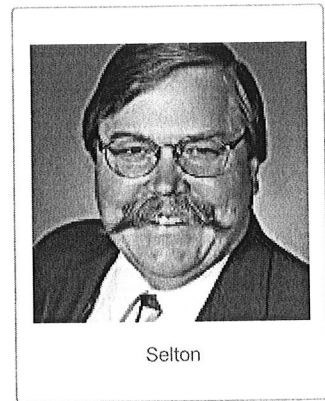
Occupation: Journeyman truck mechanic and head shop steward for Bimbo Baking Group.

Years you have lived in the city: 34 years as a resident of Crystal Ward 2.

Community/civic organizations involvement: Volunteer with NEAR food shelf

How people can contact you: 763- 531-2074

What do you consider the top issues that the Crystal City Council should address?



Selton

Preserving neighborhoods: The city has had 1,098 home foreclosures from January 2007 to June 2014. This has brought to us speculative buyers getting into the rental business. The Economic Development Authority of Crystal is constantly reviewing the foreclosures for possible property acquisitions. New homes continue to be built on purchased EDA lots. This helps maintain higher owner occupancy rates.

We must prevent big spikes in property taxes. Although these are times of economic difficulties for many cities across the country, your elected officials must plan according. We are a diverse community and we do not want to jeopardize home ownership for seniors as well as new families starting out.

Protecting property values: The city of Crystal must protect property values by maintaining local infrastructure and planning for amenities including strong, healthy retail shopping areas, parks and trails and happy business owners.

Promoting involvement: When government is not involved with actively receiving information and feedback from its citizens, it cannot serve its citizens. I will continue to serve citizens by listening and by calling on them to participate in keeping our city a great place to live, work and play. We currently have many vacancies on our city commissions.

The city must also market itself and its assets to prospective homeowners. We live in a great geographic location in relation to Minneapolis and St. Paul. We have great parks and a variety of recreational activities available to citizens. Our school district has been award winning. Through greater involvement of all citizens we need to create some excitement about living in Crystal.

What measures would you propose to address these issues?

The first and foremost job of a council member is the annual budget. I'm committed to a common sense approach to the budget using all the tools and talents available from the financial toolbox. I'm a blue collar worker and I also pay taxes to the city of Crystal. I believe a budget should reflect what is valued by the community and protects the health, safety and investments of our community.

Bottineau Light Rail Transit has emerged as a topic of prominent concern in the North West Metro. How would you work with constituents with varying views on the line and what is your own opinion? What do you anticipate your role being in regard to this issue?

I currently support the Bottineau Light Rail. I ask that citizens take the opportunity to submit their comments and input to me or during formal public hearings. On May 21, the city of Crystal submitted formal comments to Hennepin County outlining the issues of noise, vibration and traffic related to the Bottineau Boulevard

transit way. My role is to represent the voices of citizens and business concerning the construction impact and line operation on this important project.

Contact Joe Bowen at joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com



post.mnsun.com

<http://post.mnsun.com/2014/07/we-can-do-better-than-this-slime-ball-richter-resigns-from-crystal-planning-commission-after-blog-post-about-council-member/>

Sun Post
7-31-14

'We can do better than this slime ball' – Richter resigns from Crystal Planning Commission after blog post about council member

By Joe Bowen

Andrew Richter resigned his seat on the Crystal Planning Commission after a city council member took issue with one of Richter's posts on Community Solutions Minnesota, a blog Richter co-founded in the late 2000s.

The June 29 post, titled "John Budziszewski Has to Go," focused on the behavior of the council member during a June 17 meeting. Richter's post described Budziszewski as a "total jerk" during the meeting before delving into a series of complaints about his voting record, replacement as a citizen representative on the West Metro Fire-Rescue District board, and position on campaign finance donations.

"My fellow citizens, we can do better than this slime ball," Richter wrote. "Budziszewski isn't worthy of being on our council. He has no new ideas, never answers email, doesn't attend events in the city (unless he's up for re-election), and offers nothing for changes in policy."

Councilmember Mark Hoffmann took issue with the post, which he had previously shown to Budziszewski, and voiced his displeasure at a July 15 council work session.

"He called Mr. Budziszewski a pretty bad name," Hoffmann said of Richter. "To call a council member something like this, I find just absolutely terrible, especially when he's on a commission representing the city and he's on a commission that has some authority ... I think anybody who does this is so low in the world, that it's unforgivable."

"And worse, Jim, if I was you, I'd be embarrassed," Hoffmann said to Mayor Jim Adams, whose June 15 interview with Richter was linked in the opening paragraph of the post. "This was the lead-in to your interview."

Hoffmann characterized Richter's assertion that Budziszewski was "thrown off" the fire department board as "malicious," and said that Richter's post contained "a lot of mistruths" and the assertions it made were "lies."

"It has nothing to do with politics," Hoffmann added. "It's just lack of respect."

Richter sent a letter of resignation to the city the morning of July 22, but insists that he stands by his words.

"I did call him (Budziszewski) a slime ball and a jerk. That was probably over the top, but that's how he acted. If he hadn't acted like that, I would have never written the piece at all," Richter said.

Richter said he thinks Hoffmann, who is up for re-election in the fall, is trying to use the inflammatory web post as a way to "go after" Adams and other like-minded council members and candidates who often oppose Hoffmann, Budziszewski and Councilmember Joe Selton on key issues, such as funding for the city's

proposed public works building and long-term mill and overlay project. Richter said that his resignation means Hoffmann is unable to "play the victim."

"Hoffmann's fake outrage was all a calculated move to try and link me with Mayor Adams and other people running for the council," Richter wrote in a July 23 post titled, "No Apologies."

"I'm not going to let anyone threaten my freedom of speech or become an issue that a desperate politician clings on to try and play the victim," he wrote.

Richter said he perceived Hoffmann's statements as a threat and understood them to mean, in Richter's words, "either we have to get him (Richter) off the committee or we need to shut him up."

When reached for comment, Hoffman responded by saying, "He can take it however he wants to. He's the one that said it. It's a reaction to what he said that I thought had to be said. ... He can say what he wants, but I don't think he can say it the way he said it."

Richter also said that similar incidents have happened without any objection from Hoffmann. He claims that former mayor ReNae Bowman has sent mean-spirited emails to Adams and others and that Hoffmann "never says a word."

"Mayor Bowman continues to send vile and disgusting emails to Mayor Jim Adams and Mark Hoffmann is nowhere to be found complaining about that," he wrote.

Hoffman said he was unaware of any such emails.

"Those two were going at each other," he said of their 2012 mayoral race. "I don't know if there's anything else that's gone on ... I'm not aware of anything since, really, the race."

Richter made a point, however, of saying that he respects Hoffmann and would be willing to discuss the matter over coffee. The same offer, however, is not on the table for Budziszewski.

An attorney familiar with defamation law wrote that, "Richter's post is indeed nasty, but for the most part I suspect it would not trigger a libel problem for him because Budziszewski is of course a public official for libel purposes. ... Furthermore, most of the negative comments in the post are either clearly an expression of Richter's opinions (which are mostly protected by the First Amendment) or fall short of being considered libelous."

Contact Joe Bowen at joe.bowen@ecm-inc.com